

A nation was scattered around the world. To the Middle East, to Europe and to America.

I speak to you in the language of the survivors who came to America for freedom and made a new life.

For almost a century, Turkey has denied the genocide. In the face of overwhelming evidence—much of it from American diplomats and journalists—Ankara has denied that the genocide ever happened. They want the world to forget.

I speak to you in the language of those who were lost. Their voices drift across the decades—begging us to not forget them, no matter how hard some people try.

I am not Armenian, but I speak to you in your language because on this day we are all Armenian. For many years I have sat with you and listened—to the stories of those who were lost in the genocide and those who survived.

I speak to you in their language and yours to thank you for sharing your history with me and to pledge again that I will not stop fighting until the United States lives up to its principles by honoring and commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

And because I know that day will come. May it come soon, so the last of the survivors may hear its awesome sound.

May God hear our voices.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY 11TH ANNUAL EQUINE SCIENCE SHOWCASE AND QUARTER HORSE SALE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, I will have the opportunity and the honor to attend Penn State University's 11th Annual Equine Science Showcase and Quarter Horse Sale.

As a land-grant university, horses of various breeds have always been a part of Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science. As machinery replaced the draft horse, Penn State started the move towards the lighter horse types. Today, PSU focuses on the quarter horse for its diverse abilities, from working stock to show and recreation. Quarter horses are estimated to generate more than \$10.5 billion in economic output nationally.

This Saturday, 21 quarter horses will go on the auction block at Penn State's popular Equine Science Showcase and Quarter Horse Sale. The auction has grown with support from students and people in the equine industry, from 70 in the first auction to almost 500 last year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the 2013 sale's participating Penn State students, student co-managers Jordy Hudson and Melissa Wise, and instructor of equine sciences and horse farm coordinator Brian Egan.

SEQUESTRATION'S EFFECTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, 7 weeks on, Americans have already begun to feel the effects of the Republican policy of sequestration.

Sequestration defies common sense and is irresponsible. It is happening because the Tea Party faction of the Republican Party is hell-bent on cutting spending, no matter what the consequences, no matter how irrationally it is done, and no matter how adverse the consequences of these cuts.

These arbitrary, across-the-board cuts to Federal programs without regard to our priorities was never meant to be a solution, but rather, a deterrent to Congress failing to reach one.

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Since coming into effect on March 1, Americans are seeing why sequestration is not a policy we should follow or continue. This week, the FAA began furloughs for 47,000 employees. I've talked to the Secretary and I've talked to the Deputy Assistant Secretary. They do not have an option under the policies that this Congress has adopted. Thirteen thousand air traffic controllers are among those 47,000.

Already, delays of up to 2 hours at major airports are disrupting travel, which impacts business and produces major headaches for American families trying to get to where they need to go. Some flights have been diverted because the air traffic control system is being overwhelmed with limited personnel.

In addition to its effects on the FAA, sequestration is also placing a heavy burden on small business. According to an article in Politico on April 16—just a few days ago—small businesses are being hit the hardest by sequestration's cuts. The Small Business Administration is being forced to cut \$16.7 million in loan subsidies; those are guarantees. That means \$16.7 million in loans—capital—not available to small businesses. At the same time, the article goes on to report as many as 956,000 small business jobs could be at risk from sequestration as employers lay off their workers in anticipation of further cuts.

We ought to abandon this stupid policy.

Also at stake are critical research programs in medicine and science research that fuel American innovation and advance lifesaving treatments. They're at risk because of sequestration. Cuts to the National Institutes of Health are already leading to a reduction in research grants, including tens of millions of dollars that will halt innovative genomics and cancer research at some of America's top universities, including Harvard, Penn, and Johns Hopkins in my State. And the National Science Foundation will have to award 1,000 fewer grants this year to researchers who are helping keep America on top of technology and innovation. How irrational.

This is a stupid, harmful, future-hurting, and America-undercutting policy. It must be changed.

Sequestration is also reducing our military readiness and putting civilian defense employees at risk of being furloughed and, more to the point, putting at risk our own national security. Communities in my district across Maryland and throughout the country whose economies depend on a strong military are going to be hard hit.

But the good news is there is an alternative. Congress has the power to end sequestration by reaching a big and balanced solution to deficits that can replace these irrational cuts. But to do so, Democrats and Republicans will have to work together in a bipartisan way. We ought to go to conference on the budget, adopt a fiscally responsible and balanced plan, and eliminate the sequester for this year and the 8 years to come.

We offered an alternative to sequester four times in the last month, and four times we were not given the opportunity to have it voted upon on this floor. This was supposed to be open and transparent, and we would consider alternatives. We did not. But I believe we can do it. Our economy, our ability to create jobs, and the success of our country in the decade ahead is dependent on our jettisoning these irrational cuts we call sequestration.

Too many jobs, lives, and livelihoods are at stake for Congress to engage in partisan games. As the weeks and months continue without turning sequestration off, its effects will only get worse.

Let's act now. Let's act together. Let's act in a bipartisan way before our people and our businesses feel the full effects of this irrational and senseless sequestration policy. Let's work together to achieve the big, balanced solution the American people deserve from their Congress and that we owe to our country.

I will submit an article for the RECORD written by our colleague, Representative DAVID PRICE of North Carolina, entitled: "Lawmakers' sequestration double-talk."

[From the Charlotte Observer, Apr. 23, 2013]

LAWMAKERS' SEQUESTRATION DOUBLE-TALK

(By U.S. Rep. David E. Price)

Double-talk is never in short supply in Washington. But as the axe of "sequestration"—the across-the-board spending cuts triggered by Congress' failure to pass a long-term budget plan—begins to fall, self-contradiction and hypocrisy have reached heights unusual even for the Capitol.

Indeed, many of the same Congress members who welcomed sequestration as a way to force the president to cut spending are now protesting loudly when their pet programs feel the pain. Members who voted for the package that Speaker John Boehner said included "90 percent" of what Republicans wanted now claim that sequestration does not need to hurt very much and accuse the president of imposing cuts for political effect.

The reality is that sequestration was designed to cut both deeply and indiscriminately. Although it barely touches the two main deficit drivers—tax expenditures and entitlement spending—it was supposed to be sufficiently draconian and unacceptable to